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RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 8739
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SUBJECT: BOSNIA: NEW HIGH REPRESENTATIVE LAJCAK TELLS
ITALIANS HE WILL NOT HESITATE TO USE BONN POWERS

Classified By: Classified by Jonathan R. Cohen, Acting Political Minister Counselor, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Miroslav Lajcak, the next High Representative for Bosnia, visited Rome on May 28 to meet with the PM's senior diplomatic advisor Stefano Sannino, MFA Director General for Political Affairs Giulio Terzi, MFA DG for European Affairs Laura Mirachian and MFA Balkans Office Director Raimondo De Cardona. An official from the Slovak embassy in Rome told poloff that Sannino told Lajcak that the GOI was disappointed with the current political stalemate in Bosnia. Bosniak member of the tripartite presidency Silajdzic and RS PM Dodik were becoming increasingly problematic to the constitutional and police reform process. Additionally, Italy was concerned that a decision in favor of independence for Kosovo would lead to calls by Serbs in Bosnia to hold a referendum on their own independence. Lajcak told Sannino that he would not hesitate to use Bonn powers to prevent anti-Dayton behavior by politicians. Lajcak believed that Schwartz-Schilling had lost all leverage by he declaring that he would not use his Bonn powers. Lajcak asked for Italy's support in the event he had to take strict measures. Sannino agreed that the international community needed to fully support the Office of the High Representative.

¶2. (C) Lajcak told Mirachian and De Cardona he feared that, as the last High Representative, his authority and influence would decrease significantly in the last six months of his one-year mandate. Therefore, he intended to push hard on constitutional and police reform immediately. Mirachian suggested that perhaps a constitutional congress could be convened to move forward on constitutional issues. Lajcak remained noncommittal and said he would be open to recommendations from the PIC Steering Board.
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